



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Brooktrails Township Fuel Reduction

PROJECT LOCATION Approximately 1-3-miles northwest of Willits, CA
Legal Description: T19N, R14W; Sections 33, 34, 35; T 18N, R 14 W, Sections 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian

COUNTY Mendocino

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of the reduction of hazardous fuels located within the greenbelt area managed by the Brooktrails Township Community Services District (BTCSD). CAL FIRE hand crews will remove dead material and trim live vegetation for the purpose of reducing fire hazard on approximately 52-acres adjacent to the BTCSD water supply system, including redwood water tanks and the water treatment plant, as well as along a community trail system that could serve as firebreaks / control lines in the event of a wildfire. The vegetation is a mosaic of redwood/fir/tanoak stands with varying levels of understory shrubs and interspersed shrub-filled openings. Treatments include the removal of dead woody material, removal of ladder fuels, thinning of trees less than 6-inches in diameter to a minimum spacing of 10-ft, & pruning of trees to a height of 10-ft above ground level. The work will be accomplished using hand tools and chainsaws. No heavy equipment will be used. Vegetation removal will be consistent with the fuel modification hazard abatement standards of the Brooktrails Fire Dept. Overall, the project will reduce fuel loads and promote forest health. Woody material generated by this project shall be either chipped on site or burned in piles located along existing roadways and trails.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4; 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Minimal ground disturbance is expected as work will be performed by hand crews. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified that will be negatively impacted by this project. The CAL FIRE Area Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 3/23/15
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection